

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04286 082357Z

66

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-05

SWF-01 /034 W

----- 044113

R 082318Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4548

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4286

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CS

SUBJECT: PUNTARENAS - PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE

REF: STATE 240792, SAN JOSE 2175 OF 6/15/73

1. SUMMARY. FOUR MAJOR SHIPPING CONFERENCES HAVE PLACED SURCHARGES ON VESSELS CALLING AT PUNTARENAS DUE TO HEAVY PORT CONGESTION CAUSED BY INADEQUATE FACILITIES. PLANS TO ALLEVIATE THIS CONGESTION CALL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PORT FACILITIES AT PUNTARENAS AND NEARBY PUNTA MORALES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR NEW PORT AT CALDERA. SIGNIFICANT RELIEF IS NOT, HOWEVER, IN SIGHT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF 1976 AT THE EARLIEST. END SUMMARY.

2. PUNTARENAS PORT OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN/PACIFIC COAST STEAMSHIP CONFERENCE INCREASED ITS PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE APPLICABLE TO PUNTARENAS TO 25 PERCENT AS OF OCTOBER 19. OTHER CONFERENCES WHICH APPLY A PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE TO PUNTARENAS ARE: THE ATLANTIC AND GULF WEST COAST OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO CONFERENCE, WITH A SURCHARGE OF \$10 PER TON; THE WITTASS CONFERENCE, WITH TWO SURCHARGES, ONE OF 10 PERCENT AND ANOTHER OF \$2 A TON; AND THE JAPAN/LATIN AMERICAN SHIPPING CONFERENCE, WHICH RAISED ITS SURCHARGE FROM \$5 TO \$8 A TON AS OF SEPTEMBER 26.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN JO 04286 082357Z

3. WAITING TIME VARIES GREATLY AT PUNTARENAS. THE PORT

CAPTAIN INFORMED

AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE HAS KNOWN OF SHIPS WHICH WAITED UP TO EIGHT OR EVEN TWELVE DAYS ALTHOUGH THIS SEEMS TO BE THE EXTREME CASE. ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IS THE LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE PIER. CURRENTLY, ONLY TWO SHIPS CAN BE BERTHED AT THE PIER AT THE SAME TIME, AND ONLY ONE OF THESE TWO CAN BE A LARGE VESSEL, I.E. 550 FEET AND LONGER, THE OTHER MUST BE UNDER EITHER 480 OR 430 FEET, DEPENDING ON CURRENTS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WHENEVER A LARGE GRAIN VESSEL IS TIED UP, BECAUSE OF THE TIME INVOLVED IN UNLOADING AND TAKING ON NEW CARGO, OTHER LARGE VESSELS CAN BE DELAYED FROM DOCKING FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD. SOME MINOR ALLEVIATION OF THIS PROBLEM IS PROVIDED BY THE USE OF LIGHTERS USED TO OFFLOAD CARGO FROM BOATS OUT IN THE HARBOR. THE PORT HAS 9 LAUNCHES AND 2 TOW BOATS.

4. PLANS TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION CALL FOR THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES AT PUNTARENAS, THE EQUIPPING OF THE SMALLER PORT OF PUNTA MORALES TO HANDLE SUGAR AND, PERHAPS, BULK GRAIN VESSELS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PORT SOUTH OF PUNTARENAS AT CALDERA. PLANS FOR PUNTARENAS CALL FOR EXTENDING THE PIER BY CHANGING IT FROM AN "L" TO A "T" SHAPE AND THUS MAKING ROOM FOR TWO ADDITIONAL BERTHS FOR LARGE VESSELS. THE EXTENSION COULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1975. PUNTA MORALES IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME THE PRINCIPAL SUGAR LOADING PORT BY APRIL OR MAY OF 1975 AND IT MAY ALSO BE USED BY BULK GRAIN CARRYING VESSELS. EVEN IF LIMITED TO SUGAR LOADING, THIS SHOULD HELP ALLEVIATE CONGESTION AS SOME 80,000 TONS OF SUGAR A YEAR ARE CURRENTLY BEING LOADED AT PUNTARENAS. THE MOSHR AMBITIOUS PROJECT CALLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MODERN PORT AT CALDERA. THE INITIAL PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION, WHICH MAY BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1975 IF ALL GOES WELL, CALLS FOR THE BUILDING OF A BREAKWATER WHICH WILL START A CONVEYOR BELT TO BE USED BY GRAIN-CARRYING VESSELS. TWO TO THREE ADDITIONAL BERTHS FOR REGULAR CARGO VESSELS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE BUILT DURING THIS FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION. EVENTUALLY CALDERA WILL BECOME THE MAIN PACIFIC PORT AND OPERATIONS AT PUNTARENAS WILL BE PHASED OUT. THIS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT OCCUR FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN JO 04286 082357Z

SERIOUS CONGESTION SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST, AT LEAST, THROUGH 1975.
LANE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PORT CONGESTION, PORT FACILITIES, PORT CHARGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO04286
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740322-0982
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741159/aaaabxqx.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 240792, SAN JOSE 2175 OF 6/15/, 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUNTARENAS - PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE
TAGS: EWWT, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005